



# VAGABOND

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## Hobo Fishing Advice: Casting Out and Reeling In

(self.vagabond)

submitted 17 hours ago \* by [huckstah](#) [Trainhopper / Hitchhiker](#)

### Fishing Strategy

No matter what type of rod/reel/lure setup you use, you HAVE to know basic fishing strategies determined by where you are fishing, what you are fishing with, and the type of fish you are trying to catch. This will ultimately determine your long-term success while fishing. Simply casting out and reeling back, or letting something sink or float, is only the tip of the iceberg.

However, for the beginner or novice vagabond that's learning to fish, I'll try to use the most basic and well-known strategies that most anglers will agree with. Casting and reeling strategies is a very vast and often over-complicated subject, and also very argumentative depending on angler to angler.

But hey, we're hobos and vagabonds! Most of us are not even



This post was submitted on **13 Apr**

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going to utilize many of so-called "expert" tips that are meant for pro anglers and tournament fishermen. We're just trying to catch an easy meal, and that can be done with some very easy strategies.

Having said that, I'll explain the a few CASTING and REELING techniques that are both simple and proven methods of maximizing your ability to target fish.

Remember, you need to combine BOTH of these methods, REELING and CASTING, in order to truly maximize your chance of getting a strike and reeling in some food.

### **Casting Out:**

Your strategy of casting is one of the biggest factors that will determine and maximize your ability to find out where the fish are.

Fish, according to species, time, temperature, weather, day/night, are doing different things, and most vagabonds on the road don't have the time or access to learn all these individual and specific details.

However, no matter where you fish, or what the conditions are, there are some simple casting strategies that will maximize your ability to find where fish are, no matter what they are doing, or where you are fishing

There are several casting strategies, all arguably efficient, but the easiest and most efficient form of casting is using the "[Fan Strategy](#)".

Hit every single angle you can, and reel in slowly. Don't keep casting into one spot, and don't just cast where you have seen

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fish popping the surface. Hit every angle you can, and do this for atleast 15-30 minutes before walking to a different section of water. 15 minutes if you're in a hurry, 30 minutes if you're serious and patient about fishing.

More importantly, when fan fishing, do NOT forget the banks! I cannot stress this enough! Do NOT forget to sweep those banks, and I'll explain why:

Most people naturally think that the best fish, or the most amount of fish, are going to be in the deepest part of a river/pond/lake, such as the center. This is simply NOT TRUE, and you simply have to teach yourself to avoid that ignorant assumption or instinct.

In fact, most anglers, such as yours truly, we will even double or triple-fan the banks each time we start and end our entire fan.

Fish hangout near the banks for many reasons, but most importantly because that's where they find the most prey and easiest meals. There is also tons of foliage, weeds, and other debris for excellent hiding and feeding. Simply put, fish LOVE hanging out near the banks, and this is exactly why most experienced fisherman will focus on casting along the bank than any other area of the water.

However, it's always best to complete your full fan, no matter what. This will maximize your ability to not only find fish, but also attract them on the next cast. Fish are not only on the banks, you should always fan the entire area/radius of the water before deciding to walk downstream or switch to a different section of the pond/lake. If you aren't casting full fans and remembering to drag along the

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banks, you're likely missing out on a potential meal. Be patient, and just use that basic strategy.

Also, feel free to mix it up and try other stuff. Maybe cast in every single spot twice, or even three times, and do your fans that way. No matter what, the more time your lure is in the water, and the more places you can set your lure, the more successful you will be.

### **Reeling In:**

After you've learned a basic casting strategy, the next step to learn is how reel in, and use this to also maximize your ability to find out which DEPTH and DISTANCE the fish may be lurking.

As mentioned before, fish can be doing different things at different depths according to numerous factors: hour, weather, temperature, moon, etc.

This is why reeling strategy is just as just as important as casting strategy when it comes to maximizing the amount of fish you can find and target in the area you are fishing.

While casting in a fan method will control the HORIZONTAL area that you fish, reeling in will determine the different VERTICAL depth of areas that you fish, in accordance to the DISTANCE or length that you are from the bank.

Are the fish hunting at the top of the water, the bottom of the water, or somewhere in the middle? This is where reeling strategy will help you determine that very question.

- **Sink - Jerk - Reel**

One of the most often used and efficient strategies for hitting all

depths at all distances is the "Sink - Jerk - Reel" method.

This method allows you to hit the bottom, middle, and top depths of whatever distance you are fishing, therefore maximizing the different vertical depths of where fish are potentially located according to conditions.

The Sink - Jerk - Reel strategy is basically self-explanatory, and there is no picture to describe this, but I'll explain the basic method of doing this anyway:

Once you cast out, let your lure/bait sink to the bottom or near the bottom depth of the water. Once you feel it settle or getting low, give it a quick jerk or pop with your rod, and this will bring your lure up towards the middle depth of water. After the jerk, slowly reel the line back in, thus gradually bring your lure towards the upper depths of the water. After you slowly reel in for 2-3 seconds, let your lure sink back down to near the bottom of the water, jerk or pop it again back to the middle depth, and slowly reel back in towards the top again. Repeat this until your lure is reeled completely back to the ban. Repeat that method to your next fanning point.

By casting out and letting it sink, you are fooling fish into thinking that it's prey that just dropped helplessly from the air and is sinking to the bottom. However, if they aren't convinced by that, give it a quick jerk, or two jerks, and you'll mimic an injured or dying prey that will further convince them. If the fish is SUPER picky and not very hungry, seduce it even more by SLOWLY reeling in as if the prey is making an "escape" back to the safety of the banks.

The Sink - Jerk - Reel approach will trigger an instant feeding instinct, which will seduce even the pickiest of fish, or fish that aren't even hungry, to attack your bait/lure anyway simply out of instinct or aggression.

Feel free to mix this strategy up by aiming for certain depths, reeling fast, reeling slow, letting it sink for a few more seconds than average, fanning certain spots twice, etc. Mix it up until you find what's successful for you according to the area and conditions that you are fishing in.

Remember: Cast out, let it sink, jerk your lure, and reel in slowly. Repeat. That's it. The rest is a matter of repetition, customization, patience, and determining when it's time to move to the next spot.

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